

there is living with someone else as a couple, you should check "unmarried partner" to describe your relationship.

The category "unmarried partner" appeared for the first time on census forms 10 years ago in 1990. That year, 150,000 households were counted as consisting of same-sex unmarried partners, clearly a severe undercount. Since then, we have seen an unparalleled increase in visibility for members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community, including those in unmarried partnerships. Yet, they are not accounted for.

I applaud the efforts of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute and the Institute for Gay and Lesbian Strategic Studies. These advocacy organizations are conducting an important national campaign known as "Make Your Family Count," which urges same-sex couples to check the "unmarried partner" box on the census form when describing the relationship of two people from the same sex that are living together.

The campaign is supported by other advocacy groups such as Human Rights Campaign and is receiving a good deal of attention in lesbian and gay news outlets throughout the country. They have also launched a Web site, <http://www.wecount.org>, with information about the census and guidance to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender couples on answering the census forms.

Correcting this lack of accounting is an important step so that we can get an accurate picture of the American population and the current American family. The information is vital to determining congressional representation and funding for various community-oriented programs as well.

I encourage everyone to accurately report to the Census Bureau critical demographic information that can lead to changes in Federal law and policy. Federal law guarantees that your answers will be kept confidential and the Census Bureau has a great record for preserving privacy, so there is no excuse for not being truthful in your response.

You should make your family, you should make your relationships count. You should fill out your census forms. And if you are living with someone to whom you are not married, you should check the box for "unmarried partners." Fill it out today. You will not be sorry.

SETTING PRIORITIES FOR FIGHTING THE WAR ON DRUGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. RAMSTAD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, in today's St. Paul Pioneer Press this headline caught my attention this morning. It reads, "Drug-Related Deaths Set Record."

The story goes on to say that "drug-related deaths in the United States have reached a record level, while illegal drug users can buy cocaine and heroin at some of the lowest prices in two decades, according to a White House report." It further states that "some 15,973 people in this country died from drug-induced causes in 1997, an increase of 1,130 people over the previous year."

The story further states that "only four of every 10 addicts in the United States who needed treatment received it," according to the report. Then it concludes by stating that "the figures surely are distressing news for the Clinton Administration, which is spending record amounts of money to fight the war on drugs."

Mr. Speaker, why do we have a record number of deaths from illegal drugs? Because we are spending the money in the wrong places.

Now the administration is calling for the expenditure of another \$1.7 billion for drug eradication and interdiction in Colombia. We have already spent \$600 million fighting the drug war in Colombia. What has been the result? The production of cocaine and heroine has skyrocketed. In fact, 80 percent of the cocaine and 75 percent of the heroin today in the United States comes from Colombia.

Mr. Speaker, our priorities are all out of line in the war against drugs. For the \$400 million proposed to build new helicopters for Colombia, we could treat 200,000 addicts in the United States. When President Nixon in 1971 declared war on drugs, he directed 60 percent of the funding to treatment, and do you know what it is today, Mr. Speaker? Eighteen percent, 18 percent of the funding.

Overall, since the war on drugs started, we have spent \$150 billion on crop eradication and drug interdiction. What has been the result? We have 26 million addicts and alcoholics in the United States today. Most are unable to get into treatment. Ten million have no insurance and therefore cannot get treatment through Medicaid. Sixteen million have insurance, but the insurance companies are blocking the access of all but 2 percent of these to treatment.

In the last 10 years, Mr. Speaker, we have seen 50 percent of the treatment centers close in America. Even more alarming, 60 percent of the adolescent treatment centers in this country are gone.

We need to wake up. The Congress needs to wake up. The President needs to wake up. We have a national epidemic of addiction on our hands, and we are about to spend good money after bad, another \$1.7 billion for the Colombia boondoggle.

We need to listen to former Lieutenant Commander Sylvester Salcedo, who for 3 years worked on this effort with our intelligence forces and our mili-

tary in Colombia. This is the way Lieutenant Commander Salcedo put it: "This is a misdirection of our priorities. This money should be going to treating addicts in the United States, rather than trying to eradicate crops in Colombia."

Mr. Speaker, I hope that wisdom and good judgment prevail in this body when this vote comes up, because this is truly a defining moment in our effort to curb illegal drug use in the United States. Are we going to continue wasting money on these eradication and interdiction efforts that do not work? All the studies show that treatment is 23 times more effective, more cost effective, than eradication. All the studies show that treatment is 11 times more cost effective than interdiction efforts.

When are we going to learn? When are we going to learn? Let us remember when this war on drugs was first declared by President Nixon, he said we should spend 60 percent of the money on treatment. Today it is down to 18 percent. We need to reverse those priorities. We need to emphasize treatment, provide access to the 26 million Americans already addicted to drugs and alcohol. Until we do something about the demand side, the disease of addiction that causes people to crave and demand drugs, we are never going to put a dent in this problem, which everyone in this body says is the number one public health and public safety problem.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this body to defeat the almost-\$2 billion for more wasteful efforts in Colombia and redirect those priorities to drug treatment here at home.

DIGITAL DIVIDE ELIMINATION ACT OF 2000

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JEFFERSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JEFFERSON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that today my colleagues and I introduced the Digital Divide Elimination Act of 2000, legislation designed to extend technology access to every home in America. I urge every Member's support of this vital piece of legislation.

More and more, America is transforming into a technologically driven nation, with every institution being impacted by the Internet and e-mail. In this new tech-driven economy, computers are becoming the crucial link to education, to information, to technological skills, to job sources, and to commerce.

For all Americans, personal and economic success will depend on having the ability to understand and use these powerful information tools. However, according to the Commerce Department's report defining the digital divide, a large segment of the population